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CHESHUNT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
for the year
1940.
by

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D.,
M.B., C.M., M.O.H.

and

C. WILSON.
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my annual report in regard to the health of Cheshunt. As in the case of last year the report is much abbreviated.

The report of Mr. Wilson, your Sanitary Inspector, is also included.

Along with the consideration of zymotic diseases and general sanitary conditions the outstanding feature of the year to the Medical Officer has been the exceedingly small detrimental effect of the war, and even the three months time of nightly raids, upon the health of the people.

I have to thank the Surveyor's and other Departments for their help and figures.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN McCLYMONT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Cheshunt Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health (part time):

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D., M.B., C.M.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Superintendent of the Ambulance and Refuse Collection Services, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts:-

C. WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4.)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J.E. STEEDEN, (2)
(Relinquished appointment 31/7/40).

R.B. GIRLING, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3.5.)
(Commenced duties 25/11/40).

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.
5. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Smoke Inspector.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.

The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres and has not been altered.

Population.

The population as estimated by the food ration books in July, 1940 was 18,434.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1940 was 18,190.

	1938.	1939.	1940.
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books.	5,073.	5,409.	5,475.
Rateable value.	£121,768.		
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£458.		

Social Conditions and Occupations.

Increase in wages at a local and other Munition Factories and in the principle industry of the district, namely horticulture, has added to the well being of the parish.

Unemployment has been negligible - indeed labour has been difficult to obtain.

Vital Statistics.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births. Legitimate.	154.	127.	281.
Illegitimate.	2.	4.	6.
Still Births.	4.	3.	7.
Deaths.	110.	111.	221.
Birth rate per 1,000 of the population.			15.72.
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)			23.89.
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.			12.15.
Standardised death rate (comparability factor 1.04)			12.63.
Deaths from Puerperal causes:-			
Deaths from Puerperal & Post-abortive Sepsis.			0.
Deaths from other Maternal causes.			1.
Death rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)			3.4.
Death rate of Infants under 1 yr. of age:-			
All infants per 1,000 live births			34.84.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.			35.58.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.			Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).			32.
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages).			47.
Deaths from Measles (all ages).			0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).			0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age).			1.

	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Birth Rate.	14.8	18.1	18.36	17.14	15.72
Death Rate.	11.1	10.5	10.15	9.95	12.15
Infant death rate.	42.0	33.2	38.59.	48.70	34.84

Causes of Sickness or Invalidity.

The winter was the longest and coldest for many years and during that period, particularly while influenza was present, a considerable number of cases of pneumonia were reported.

Diseases of the heart, which are mostly attributable to old age, heads the list of causes of death.

Though there was much interchange of population by people coming from bombed London and the many troop movements no epidemic of infectious diseases - and one particularly thinks of cerebro-spinal meningitis - has occurred.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
All causes.	110.	111.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	0.	0.
Measles.	0.	0.
Scarlet Fever.	0.	0.
Whooping Cough.	0.	0.
Diphtheria.	0.	0.
Influenza.	1.	0.
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	0.	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	4.	4.
Tuberculosis, other forms.	1.	0.
Syphilis.	0.	1.
General Paralysis.	0.	0.
Cancer, all causes.	18.	14.
Diabetes.	0.	0.
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	9.	9.
Heart disease.	17.	30.
Aneurysm.	0.	0.
Other circulatory diseases.	5.	3.
Bronchitis.	8.	10.
Pneumonia.	11.	4.
Other Respiratory diseases.	3.	1.
Peptic and duodenal ulcer.	3.	0.
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	0.	1.
Appendicitis.	0.	1.
Other digestive diseases.	2.	4.
Nephritis.	5.	5.
Puerperal sepsis.	0.	0.
Other maternal causes.	0.	1.
Premature birth.	1.	1.
Congenital malnutrition, etc.	1.	1.
Suicide.	1.	0.
Other violent causes.	4.	3.
Road traffic accidents.	2.	2.
All other causes.	13.	16.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. (1) Public Health Officers.

A list of the Officers is given at the beginning of the report.

(11) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The arrangements for the examination of diphtheria swabs at Enfield still hold good, Reports of the result are given to Cheshunt within 24 hours.

Swabs and other bacteriological specimens can also be sent to the national emergency laboratory for examination.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The same arrangements exist as during last year.

On a few occasions civil defence ambulances were called upon for street accidents and urgent private cases, but generally the numerous calls were met without difficulty.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are now three nurses at the Clinic, Waltham Cross, one resident at Flamstead End, and a fifth at Goffs Oak.

Despite this number the work has generally been understaffed. Midwifery pupils are now also being instructed by the Nurses at the Clinic. The large amount done by the nurses will be noted in the appended paragraph.

	Cases.	Visits.
Midwifery (without Doctor)	52	1,035.
Maternity (with Doctor)	85	1,416.
Ante-natal.		551.
General nursing.		3,333.
Casual.		1,161.
Infant health.		4,037.
Tuberculosis.		122.
Mental defects.		89.
Boarded out children.		71.
Parents.		159.
Attendance at Clinics.		398.
Attendance at Schools. (heads etc).		173.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Dr. Ormstein has kindly forwarded the list of the work done at the Welfare Centre.

No. of child welfare clinics.	51.
No. of children on the books.	477.
No. of attendances.	1,834.
Average attendance.	36.
No. of the children for dental treatment.	34.
No. of expectant Mothers for dental treatment.	1.
No. of deaths among children.	1.

No. referred for orthopaedic treatment.	2.
No. immunised against diphtheria.	27.

Ante-natal Clinic.

No. of Clinics.	49.
No. of expectant Mothers.	204.
No. of attendances.	879.
Average attendance.	18.
No. of post-natal attendances.	10.
No. of dental treatments.	21.
No. of deaths.	0.

(e) Hospitals.

The Isolation Hospital at Digdag Hill has been used for the treatment of evacuee children from the surrounding districts.

A very large number have been treated for measles and whooping cough, pneumonia being a complication in many instances.

The Cheshunt Cottage Hospital continues its good and valuable work.

(f) Mortuary.

During the year thirteen bodies were received in the Mortuary and seven post-mortem examinations made.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) Water.

With a few exceptions all houses in the district are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Maintenance works only were carried out during the year.

The effluent from the Sewage works complied with the standard laid down throughout the year.

2. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 1,969 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow.

Changes in personnel and the administration of emergency casualty services considerably interfered with the normal routine work of the department. The post of additional sanitary inspector was vacant for nearly four months of the year.

Summary.

Number of complaints received.	135
Number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts).	171
Number of dwelling houses inspected for other than Housing defects.	52
Numbers of premises other than houses inspected.	189
Premises re-inspected (including housing).	295
Visits to works in progress (including housing).	92
Miscellaneous visits.	1,170
	1,969

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:-

Visits to slaughterhouses.	21
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale.	100
Visits to bakehouses.	3
Visits to fish friers premises.	5
Visits to schools.	1
Visits to tents, vans and sheds.	22
Visits to Houses let-in-lodgings.	1
Visits re overcrowding.	8
Visits to Council House applicants.	109
Inspections of stables and piggeries.	14
Inspections of Urinals and public conveniences.	12
Visits under Petroleum Acts.	32
Visits re collection and disposal of refuse.	233
Visits re ambulance service.	569
Inspections of Army Billets.	4
Inspections of Public Shelters.	12

Notices Served.

Informal Notices (written).	102
Statutory Notices under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, of Time and Place.	2
Statutory Notices under Section 11, Housing Acts, 1936, Demolition Orders.	2

Statutory Notices under Section 155, Housing Act, 1936 to quit house after demolition order has become operative.	1
Statutory Notices under Section 13 and 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938 relating to Registration of premises.	3
Statutory Notices under Section 157, Housing Act 1936 to enter and survey premises.	4
Statutory Notices under Section 93 Public Health Act 1936 to abate nuisance.	5

Inspections of Factories for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Inspections.
Factories with mechanical power.	4
Factories without mechanical power.	1
Other premises under the Act.	-
Outworkers.	2

There were no written notices served, prosecutions instituted or matters referred to H.M. Inspector.

Shops.

Eleven shops were inspected under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934 relating to ventilation and temperature and to sanitary conveniences. The premises were found to be generally satisfactory.

3. Schools.

In the routine medical inspection 696 children were examined and 70 defects were found. They were mainly tonsils, adenoids and teeth. Later it was reported that 44 of these defects had been remedied. In addition a considerable number of children were examined for over-seas evacuation.

The children as well as their elders have stood up to the trial of the blitzkreig remarkably well and no permanent nervous disturbance or apprehensive fear has resulted.

Practically none of the school children go to the Public air raid shelters, although no doubt, the majority of them slept in their own Anderson Shelters during the Autumn.

The lavatory pipes in some schools were frozen during the hard frosts of January and the schools had to be closed until repairs were effected. The sanitary and general conditions of the schools continues satisfactory.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Of the forty houses originally dealt with by Clearance Area procedure the remaining eight were demolished during the year thus completing the clearance of the ten areas comprising the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme.

Demolition orders were made in respect of two houses during the year, and two houses were demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	171
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	171
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	55
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	55
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	164

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	67

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) -	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By owners	Nil.
	(b) By local authority in default of owners.	Nil.
(b) -	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	5.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By owners	2.
	(b) By local authority in default of owners.	Nil.
(c) -	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	2.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	2.

(d) - Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Nine visits to cowsheds and twelve to dairies were made during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

During the year 108 visits were made to shops and premises (other than slaughter-houses) where food is prepared or exposed for sale and the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:-

Bovine lungs. (10)	Decomposition.	92 lbs.
Bovine livers.(2)	Decomposition.	27 lbs.
Bovine spleens (6)	Decomposition.	4 lbs.
Pigs plucks. (2)	Pneumonia.	29 lbs.
Carcase of mutton.	Emaciation.	25 lbs.
Pork.	Decomposition.	14 lbs.
Calves livers.	Decomposition.	6 lbs.
Calves plucks.	Decomposition.	14 lbs.
Skate.	Decomposition.	53 lbs.
Cod.	Decomposition.	32 lbs.

Confectionery valued at £2.15s.5d. contaminated by broken glass as a result of enemy action was condemned as unfit for human consumption and salvaged for pig feeding.

During the year 18 premises were registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture or sale of preserved food or ice cream.

Under the provisions of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order 1940 the slaughtering of animals in this district ceased on the 15th January. Prior to that date the number of visits made to slaughter-houses for the purpose of ante and post-mortem inspection of animals was 21 and the total number of animals examined was 81.

Meat found to be unfit for food at slaughter-houses and voluntarily surrendered amounted to 9 lbs. An analysis of animals inspected and meat condemned is given in the table which follows.

No legal action with respect to meat or slaughter-houses was taken during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	21	-	4	32	24
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.	4.76	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcase condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	4.17.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The extremely long and severely cold period of the winter produced considerable sickness and as influenza was also prevalent the number of cases of pneumonia (43) was greater that usual. Otherwise there was only a small amount of epidemic diseases. Even before the advent of general diphtheria immunisation this disease was a rarity in Cheshunt. Most pleasant of all to record is the fact that no case of puerperal fever was notified.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease.	Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	16	16	0
Diphtheria.	2	2	0
Pneumonia.	43	0	15
Paratyphoid.	2	1	0
Measles.	60	0	0
Whooping cough.	9	0	0
Erisipilas.	5	0	0
Cerebro-spinal menigitis.	3	2	1

Tuberculosis.

Despite the anxieties of the war and the poorer food (particularly in fats) the number of cases of tuberculosis reported is small - 21. This number includes a few immigrants. The death rate from tuberculosis is 0.49 per 1,000 population.

There have been no cases notified in connection with the milk trade.

New Cases.

Age Period.	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	-	-	1	-
1.	1	-	1	-
5.	1	-	-	1
15.	-	4	1	1
25.	2	1	-	-
35.	2	1	-	-
45.	1	-	-	-
55.	3	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-
Total.	10	6	3	2.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality Maternal Death Rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year, 1940.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Towns and 148 Smaller Towns)
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's & Gt. Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census.	London adm. County.	Cheshunt
	Rates per 1,000 population.				
Live Births	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7	15.72
Still Births	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44	0.38
Deaths:-					
All causes.	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8	12.63
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Scarlet Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Whooping cough.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	-
Diphtheria.	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01	-
Influenza.	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18	0.05
Small-pox.	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	-

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's & Gt. Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London adm. County.	Cheshunt
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 year of age.	55	61	54	50	34.84
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of Age.	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8	3.48
Notifications:-	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Enteric.	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06	0.11
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.16
Scarlet Fever.	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82	0.88
Whooping Cough.	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22	0.44
Diphtheria.	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61	0.11
Erysipelas.	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.22
Smallpox.	0.00	-	-	-	-
Measles.	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78	3.24
Pneumonia.	1.20	1,37	1.00	0.87	2.25
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-				
Maternal Mortality:- (Excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	0.52)	Not available			-
Others	1.64)				3.40
Total	2.16)				3.40
Notifications:-					
Puerperal Fever	11.96	13.90	9.73	3.34	
Puerperal Pyrexia				13.30 including puerperal fever.	-